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CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD

A FLORA OF NEVADA. NO. 25.



HALORAGACEAE (HALORAGIDACEAE) OF NEVADA

by

F. R. FOSBERG

January 27, 1941

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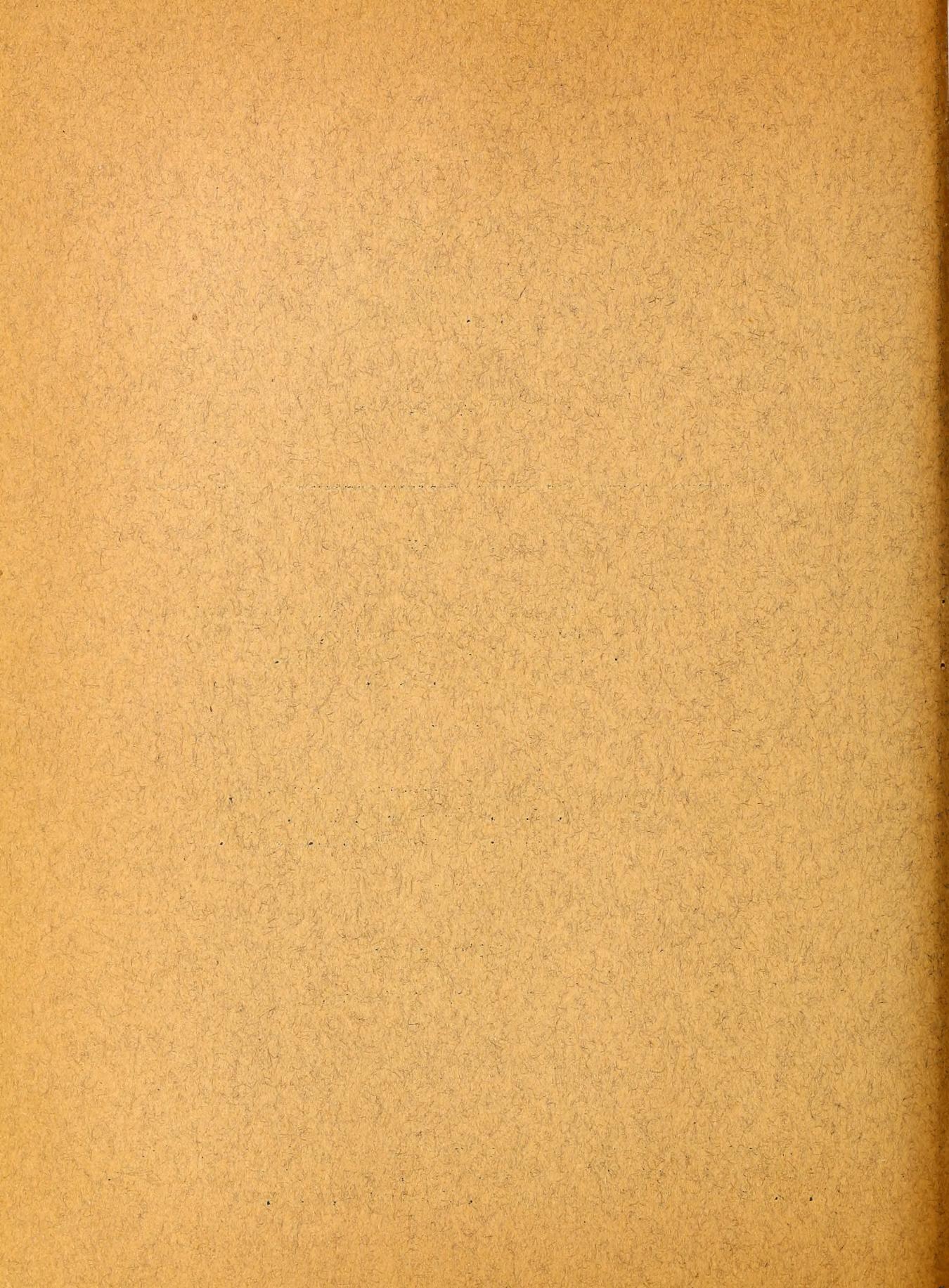
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Collaborator

University of Nevada.

Address all queries concerning this publication to the Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction, Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.



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HALORAGACEAE (HALORAGIDACEAE) OF NEVADA

By F. R. Fosberg

Plants of wet places or (in ours) truly aquatic, usually herbaceous; leaves alternate to verticillate, entire to pinnatifid, without stipules; flowers perfect or unisexual, 2 or 4 parted; calyx very small, 2-4 lobed, or entire; petals small, 2-4 or none, separate; stamens 1-8; ovary inferior, 1-4 celled, with 1-4 styles, ovules 1 in each cell, attached apically; fruit a small nut or drupe, or breaking into 4 one-seeded nutlets.

The family name is sometimes incorrectly spelled Halorrhagaceae or Halorrhagidaceae.

Two genera of aquatics found in Nevada. They may be separated by the following key:

Submerged leaves entire - - - - - 1. Hippuris.

Submerged leaves finely pinnatifid - - - - - 2. Myriophyllum.

1. HIPPURIS L.

HIPPURIS L. Gen. Pl. ed. 5: 4. 1754.

Herbs with the upper parts often extending above the surface of the water; leaves linear, entire, whorled; flowers axillary, sessile, with calyx reduced, petals absent, ovary one-celled, style one; fruit a one-seeded nut.

1. *HIPPURIS VULGARIS* L. Sp. Pl. 4. 1753.

Stem simple; leaves in whorls of 6-16, up to 4 cm. long, those on the emersed portion of plant somewhat reduced, bearing flowers in their axils.

Commonly called marestail.

Nevada: Washoe, Lyon, Lander, and Elko Counties, and in the Humboldt Valley "below Centerville" (acc. Watson).

2. *MYRIOPHYLLUM* L.*MYRIOPHYLLUM* [Vaill.] L. Gen. Pl. ed. 5: 429, 1754.

Herbs, usually with the inflorescence extending above the surface of the water, leaves variously arranged, often the submerged ones finely dissected, those subtending the flowers reduced to bracts which are usually entire; flowers monoecious or polygamous, borne in spikes with the staminate uppermost; calyx with 4 lobes; petals 4 or none; stamens 4-8; ovary 4-celled, styles 4; fruit of 4 united or separating nutlets, these variously sculptured on the back.

A number of widely distributed species, almost impossible to distinguish when sterile. Only one known from Nevada.

1. *MYRIOPHYLLUM SPICATUM* L. var. *EXALBESCENS* (Fern.) Jepson, Man.

Pl. Calif. 691. 1925.

Myriophyllum exalbescens Fernald, Rhodora 21: 120. 1919.

Stem branched, with short internodes; leaves whorled,

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finely pectinately pinnatifid; spike rather short, with whorls of flowers subtended by very small rhombic bracts, and smaller bractlets, pinkish, the flowers exceeding the bracts; stamens 8; fruit 2-3 mm. long.

The American milfoil, apparently rare in Nevada, referred by Tidestrom to M. spicatum L. and by Watson to M. verticillatum L.

Nevada: Washoe, Mineral, and Elko Counties.

